

**University Assessment Council  
Minutes of the March 8, 2011 Meeting**

Present: Kris Byrd, Ellen Byrne, Anne Chandler, Herschell Emery, Vennie Filippas, Jill Gordon, Kim Isringhausen, Christina Lindholm, James Mays, Michelle McGregor, Susan McKelvey, Sherry Sandkam, Veronica Shuford, Seth Sykes, Lex Tartaglia, Gaurav Gupta, Kathy Ingram, Scott Oates.

**Minutes from February 9, 2011**

- The minutes were approved.

**Announcements/Reminders/Updates (Scott Oates)**

- Assessment 101 Workshops in April. Scott distributed a handout about this three-session workshop series. (He received favorable feedback about the “Winter” version of the series, which concluded last week. He also will be happy to provide workshops for a particular school/department/program if requested.) Participants should register for the April workshop series through the VCU Training website. Location: CTE, Harris 5182. Dates and times:

Wednesdays: April 6, 13, 20  
10:00-11:30 a.m.

- NSSE Schedule. Scott distributed two handouts to provide an update about NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement). Students with first-year standing and students with senior standing should receive a reminder email message today encouraging them to participate. Scott reported that the participation rate so far has exceeded rates for all prior administrations of NSSE at VCU. He thanked Council members for engaging students to participate.
- Edited Glossary of Assessment Terms. Scott distributed an edited version of the *VCU Assessment Glossary* (V. 1.1, dated 3/4/11), which incorporates suggestions from the previous Council meeting. The purpose of the glossary is to provide common vocabulary for assessment at an institutional level at VCU. Council members again expressed favorable views about the content of the glossary and offered suggestions for minor revisions.

**Implementation of Assessment Quality Review (AQR)**

- Scott distributed two handouts: AQR Logistics, and a draft semester-by-semester schedule. Council members discussed the feasibility of conducting the AQR as part of an ongoing semester. Suggestions focused on reiterating the purpose of the AQR, aligning the AQR cycle with accreditation review cycles, clarifying how the AQR fits with program review, and considering the timing (e.g., whether a 3-year cycle is feasible, how far in advance to notify units about an upcoming review, and when to offer the assessment workshops). Please email Scott with any additional comments.

**Good and Welfare**

- Scott expressed appreciation and good wishes to Susan McKelvey, who will be leaving VCU on March 24. Susan and a business partner have formed a company to provide evaluation services for grants and other programs. (In case you want to contact Susan in the future: She will retain her VCU email address.) We wish Susan all the best in her new endeavors!

**Other**

- Assessment Quality Review Rubric (draft): Although Scott has not revised this document yet, he will send an electronic copy to Council members.
- Scott distributed an article by Peter Brooks published in the *New York Times Review of Books* (3/24/11). The article discusses several recent books that criticize education and learning in American colleges and universities.

**Next Meeting:****Tuesday, April 12****12:30-2:00****Sanger 38**